

do so is for Congress to allow a vote on the Colombia free trade agreement.

President Uribe has stood strong against tyranny and terror. He's done everything we have asked him to do and more. He's told Members of Congress that approving this agreement is one of the most important steps that America can take to show its support for Colombia. Now the Colombian people are waiting to see what our Congress will do. To demonstrate America's good faith, to stand by our strong friend, to send a clear signal that we appreciate our ally, the United States Congress must approve this free trade agreement.

And once they do so, Congress should quickly approve our free trade agreements with Panama and South Korea. By doing so, they can reassure these countries that America will stand by its word, and that we will not abandon our friends.

It's been nearly two centuries since the United States of America and the nation of Colombia forged a friendship in the earliest days of our independence. In the years since, both of our nations have learned that the cost of maintaining a free society is remaining vigilant against the enemies of freedom. We believe that freedom is the birthright of all. We believe that it is the responsibility of free nations to support one another against those who would undermine our freedom.

The United States is committed to the security of Colombia; we're committed to defeating the forces of terror. Our countries can meet this challenge together. And through our partnership, we can usher in a new era of enhanced prosperity and peace in our neighborhood.

I want to thank you for coming. *Que Dios le bendiga.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:41 p.m. in the East Room of the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Colombia's Ambassador to the U.S. Carolina Barco Isakson; and Director of National Planning Carolina Renteria of Colombia. He also referred to LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## **Message to the Congress Certifying Exports to the People's Republic of China**

*July 22, 2008*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify that the export of 22 accelerometers for incorporation into railway geometry measurement systems and one 20-inch fluid energy mill for production of nutritional supplements is not detrimental to the United States space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
July 22, 2008.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 23.

## **Proclamation 8275—60th Anniversary of the Integration of the United States Armed Forces**

*July 23, 2008*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

The United States is founded upon the belief that every person has unalienable rights and matchless value. Throughout our Nation's history, brave patriots have made great sacrifices to protect this ideal and to advance the cause of freedom around the world. On the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces, we pay tribute to all our service members and veterans, and we underscore our Nation's commitment to equality.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, declaring "that